

LACDMH PIO RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVISION FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS



The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) Public Information Office (PIO) is proud to announce it has been recognized with a 2015 Achievement Award in Health from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its innovative partnership with Spanish-language television network Univision.

The Achievement Award was initially presented in July to the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health at NACo's 2015 Annual Conference and Exposition in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

The *Una Mente, Una Vida (One Mind, One Life)* partnership project is an on-going segment on Univision dedicated to bringing awareness and education about mental health to Spanish-speaking communities in Los Angeles County and its surrounding counties. In addition to the featured segment, a live phone bank event was held in May 2014 to give callers an opportunity to ask for more information about mental health-related topics and resources. The televised event reached millions of residents in Southern California, from Kern County to Imperial County, resulting in hundreds of phone calls and inquiries about LACDMH programs and services.

The phone bank event was made possible with the help of Univision news director Marco Flores, Univision reporter Julio Cesar Ortiz, LACDMH Chief Deputy Director Robin Kay, Ph.D., LACDMH employees (Irma Castaneda, Miriam Brown, Barbara Engleman, Julie Valdez, Jaime Renteria, Vianney Vasquez, and Rocio Ruiz), Luis Garcia of Pacific Clinics, and all the volunteers that assisted that night with taking phone calls and directing them to available resources.

On Tuesday, September 1, 2015, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will be honoring the LACDMH PIO and Univision at its weekly meeting, along with 26 other Los Angeles County agencies and departments that won NaCo awards this year. Among the other winners is LACDMH's VALOR program that assists veterans with mental health needs and other resources.

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Award Program is designed to recognize innovative and effective county government programs that enhance services for

residents. Nationally, awards are given in 21 different categories, including children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, environmental protection, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.